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FM AMEMBASSY KABL
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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB - MRS. HECK

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E.O. 12356: DECL: 10/11/88

TAGS: ASEC, HOPS, PINS, PINT, PINR, SOPN, MILI, US, AF, PGOV
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT, OCTOBER 8-11, 1982

REF: KABUL 1603

1. (C.-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE USED IN BRIEF-
ING THE PRESS, PROTECTING SOURCES WHERE INDICATED.

3. SUMMARY. THERE WERE CONSIDERABLY FEWER RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN KABUL DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF OCTOBER COMPARED TO THE HIGH LEVEL OF INCIDENTS DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK. SOUNDS OF BOMBING AND SHELLING OF VILLAGES NEAR PAGHAMAN AND THE SHOMALI AREA SERVED TO REMIND KABUL RESIDENTS OF THE CONTINUING RESISTANCE TO THE DRA REGIME AND ITS SOVIET SPONSORS. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE EARLY JULY OFFENSIVE, SOVIET GROUND TROOPS WERE USED IN PAGHAMAN. THE SHOMALI REGION, THE TOWN OF PAGHAMAN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES WERE SUBJECTED TO REPEATED BOMBING AND ROCKETING BY MIG'S AND HELICOPTERS AS WELL AS SHELLING BY TANKS AND ARTILLERY THROUGH THE WEEK. RESISTANCE FORCES NEAR PAGHAMAN APPEAR BETTER ARMED THAN IN JULY AND HAVE SUCCEEDED IN SHOOTING DOWN FOUR HELICOPTERS AND DESTROYING NUMEROUS TANKS AND APC'S. THE CIVILIAN TOLL OF THE CURRENT OFFENSIVE HAS BEEN HIGH AND SOVIET TROOPS HAVE INTENTIONALLY DESTROYED FOOD STOCKS, COWS AND SHEEP. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN HEAVY FIGHTING NEAR THE HIGHWAY NORTH OF THE SHOMALI WHICH HAS DISRUPTED THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC NORTH THROUGH THE SALANG PASS.

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4. ACCORDING TO A RECENT TRAVELLER, THERE ARE NO SOVIET OR AFGHAN TROOPS IN THE ANAKAB VALLEY NORTH OF THE PANJSHER VALLEY, THOUGH THERE IS HEAVY FIGHTING BETWEEN RIVAL RESISTANCE GROUPS. WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS FROM THE PANJSHER WAS COMPLETED IN LATE OCTOBER. THE AFGHAN TROOPS REMAINING IN ANAWA AND ROKHA ARE UNDER CONSTANT PRESSURE BY MASUD'S FORCES. MUCH OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF THE VALLEY HAVE BEEN FORCED BY HEAVY BOMBARDMENT TO SEEK AT LEAST TEMPORARY REFUGE

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ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY AND, TO A LIMITED EXTENT, IN PAKISTAN.

5. REGIME CONTROL OF FARAH PROVINCE HAS WEAKENED SINCE LAST YEAR, AND THERE HAS BEEN HEAVY FIGHTING RECENTLY BETWEEN SOVIET AND RESISTANCE FORCES AT FARAHKUD. WHILE THE REGIME CONTROLS SHEBERGHAN, THE CAPITAL OF THE NORTHERN PROVINCE OF JOMZJAN, THE COUNTRYSIDE REMAINS IN THE HANDS OF THE RESISTANCE WHO HAVE SHUT OFF THE CITY'S WATER SUPPLY. REGIME REPRESENTATIVES REMAIN IN DISTRICT CENTERS OF THE PROVINCE BUT ARE INACTIVE AND EXIST ON THE SUFFERANCE OF THE MUJAHIDEEN. END SUMMARY.

6. KABUL ATMOSPHERICS. THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED DECREASE IN RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN KABUL DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF OCTOBER COMPARED TO THE HIGH LEVEL OF MUJAHIDEEN INCIDENTS IN LATE SEPTEMBER/EARLY OCTOBER. WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF RESISTANCE ATTACKS ON SOVIET INSTALLATIONS IN THE DARULAMAN AREA, EXCHANGES OF GUNFIRE IN KARTE SEH, KOTE SANGI, AND KHAIR KHANA. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD OF SCATTERED ASSASSINATIONS, INCLUDING AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT (PROTECT) OF THE OCTOBER 10 KILLING OF A MAN IN A MARKET AREA IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE CITY. THE VICTIM WAS SEATED BY THE ROADSIDE WHEN A MAN STEPPED OUT OF A TAXI, SHOT HIM IN THE HEAD AND
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CHEST, GOT BACK IN THE TAXI AND DROVE AWAY.

7. SECURITY REMAINS TIGHT IN THE CAPITAL. CHECKPOINTS WERE ESTABLISHED AT VARIOUS POINTS IN THE CITY DURING THE WEEK. IN ADDITION TO CHECKING PAPERS OF POTENTIAL CONSCRIPTS, TAXIS AND OTHER VEHICLES WERE SEARCHED FOR WEAPONS BY AFGHAN SOLDIERS. SOVIET SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED IN THE SHAR-E-NAU NEIGHBORHOOD

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 929

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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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FOLLOWING THE BOMBING INCIDENT REPORTED LAST WEEK:

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(FOR THE RECORD: IT WAS A TRUCK USED TO CARRY SOVIET SECURITY FORCES THAT WAS BOMBED, NOT TWO JEEPS AS REPORTED LAST WEEK.) IN ADDITION TO MORE UNIFORMED SOVIET SOLDIERS STATIONED IN THE SHOPPING AREA, WE HAVE NOTED FOR THE FIRST TIME SOVIETS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES CARRYING KALASHNIKOV'S HIDING IN DOORWAYS.

8. PAGHMAN. LAST WEEK THE TOWN OF PAGHMAN 15 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF KABUL AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES EXPERIENCED THE HEAVIEST BOMBARDMENT AND MOST SUSTAINED FIGHTING SINCE EARLY JULY. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE WEEK-LONG JULY OFFENSIVE, SOVIET GROUND FORCES WERE USED EXTENSIVELY. ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, A COLUMN OF OVER 200 TANKS, APC'S, AND TOWED ARTILLERY LEFT KABUL FOR PAGHMAN. PAGHMAN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES WERE BOMBED AND ROCKETED BY MIG'S AND HELICOPTERS AND SHELLED BY GROUND ARTILLERY, TANKS, AND STALIN ORGANS (MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS) THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, SOVIET TROOPS BEGAN TO WITHDRAW ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, THOUGH THE BOMBING CONTINUES, EXCEPT WHERE NOTED, THE SPECIFICS GIVEN BELOW ARE BASED PRIMARILY ON ACCOUNTS BY EYEWITNESSES (PROTEXT).

9. ON OCTOBER 6 AND 7 BEG TOOT AND THE PASHAI VALLEY TO THE NORTHWEST OF PAGHMAN WERE ATTACKED BY MIG'S AND HELICOPTERS. THE RESISTANCE SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING DOWN TWO HELICOPTERS WITH ROCKETS ON THE 7TH. ANOTHER HELICOPTER WAS REPORTEDLY SHOT DOWN THE PREVIOUS DAY NEAR HAIDANSHAR, AND THERE IS AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF A FOURTH HELICOPTER DESTROYED NEAR KARGHA DAM. KHOJA
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MOSAFER, GOZAH, AND ISAU KHEL WERE ALSO BOMBED AND SHELLED FOR SEVERAL DAYS. ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, THE THE CHANDALBOI BAZAAR IN PAGHMAN SUSTAINED PROLONGED ROCKETING, BOMBING AND SHELLING. RESISTANCE SOURCES (PROTECT) CLAIM THAT FOUR TANKS/APC'S WERE ROCKETED AND DESTROYED IN AND AROUND PAGHMAN ON THE SAME DAY, AND AT LEAST SIX OTHER WERE DISABLED BY MINES OR ROCKETS IN THE SURROUNDING AREAS.

10. ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCES (PROTECT) THE COMBINED SOVIET/REGIME OFFENSIVE HAS BEEN DIRECTED AS MUCH AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AS THE RESISTANCE.

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ON OCTOBER 7 THERE WAS HEAVY FIGHTING THROUGHOUT THE DAY AROUND THE UPPER ARGANDEH VALLEY. THE FOLLOWING DAY THE VILLAGE WAS SURROUNDED AND A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH CONDUCTED BY SOVIET TROOPS. FOOD NOT TAKEN BY SOLDIERS WAS HEAPED IN A PILE, DOUSED WITH GASOLINE, AND BURNED. SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THAT THE SOVIET AND REGIME TROOPS HAVE GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO SLAUGHTER COWS AND SHEEP, ESPECIALLY NEAR VILLAGES WHERE THERE HAS BEEN A HIGH LEVEL OF MUJAHIDEEN ACTION DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS.

11. COMMENT. AFTER THE JULY CAMPAIGN THE REGIME PROCLAIMED THAT PAGHMAN HAD BEEN LIBERATED FROM "IMPERIALIST LACKEYS" AND THAT PEACE AND CALM REIGNED IN PAGHMAN. AS NOTED IN PREVIOUS REPORTS, THAT BOAST WAS BELIED BY INCREASING RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA INCLUDING SUCH EVENTS AS THE ROCKETING OF SEVERAL HUNDRED PARTY CADRES AND MINISTRY WORKERS ASSEMBLED IN PAGHMAN ON AUGUST 19. THE REINTRODUCTION OF SOVIET TROOPS DURING THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN IS A TACIT ADMISSION BY THE DRA REGIME OF ITS INABILITY TO CONTROL AN IMPORTANT AREA JUST A FEW MILES FROM THE CAPITAL. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE LOCAL MUJAHIDEEN FORCES ARE BETTER ARMED - ESPECIALLY WITH ROCKETS - THAN IN JULY AND THAT THEY
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HAVE FOUGHT BACK WITH MORE SUCCESS. THE TOLL OF CIVILIANS, MAINLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, HAS BEEN HIGH. NO ESTIMATES OF CASUALTIES ARE YET AVAILABLE AS THE SURVIVORS ARE STILL DIGGING THE CORPSES OUT OF THE RUBBLE OF THEIR HOMES. THERE IS ALSO SPECULATION THAT THE OF-

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ENSIVE WAS LAUNCHED BY THE SOVIETS IN RETALIATION FOR

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ABDUCTION OF SOVIET OFFICERS IN LATE SEPTEMBER REPORTED PREVIOUSLY.

12. THE SHOMALI. THOUGH REPORTS REACHING US FROM THE SHOMALI AREA ARE FEWER AND LESS DETAILED THAN THOSE FROM PAGHMAN. IT IS CLEAR THE COMBINED SOVIET/REGIME OFFENSIVE HAS EXTENDED TO THIS REGION WHICH LIES TO THE NORTH OF KABUL ON THE ROAD TO THE SALANG PASS. VILLAGES THROUGHOUT THE AREA HAVE SUSTAINED HEAVY ROCKETING AND BOMBARDMENT THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. SHAKARDARA, THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER ("MOLESWALI"); WAS ATTACKED BY LOW-FLYING MIG'S ON OCTOBER 5 AND 6, AS WERE NEARBY VILLAGES SUCH AS GULDARA WHICH TOOK HEAVY CASUALTIES DURING THE OCTOBER 6 BOMBING. WHILE MUJAHIDEEN HAVE LONG BEEN PRESENT IN GULDARA, THERE HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY LIGHT RESISTANCE ACTIVITY NEAR THE VILLAGE. THE BOMBING HAS REPORTEDLY UNITED--AT LEAST TEMPORARILY--THE THREE OR FOUR OFTEN BICKERING MUJAHIDEEN GROUPS AGAINST SOVIET GROUND FORCES IN THE AREA. THE TOWN OF KALAKAN JUST EAST OF THE HIGHWAY WAS SURROUNDED AND SHELLLED BY TANKS AND SIMULTANEOUSLY BOMBED AND ROCKETED BY HELICOPTERS.

13. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN SIGNIFICANT FIGHTING FOR THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS FURTHER NORTH TOWARDS CHARIKAR, AND TRAVVIC MOVING THROUGH THIS AREA TO THE SALANG PASS HAS BEEN DISRUPTED FOR OVER A WEEK. A TRAVELLER (PROTECT) WHO SUCCEEDED IN GETTING FROM KARIZ-E-MIR TO JABULES-SERAJ NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE PANJSHER VALLEY REPORTS THAT THERE WAS HEAVY FIGHTING BETWEEN SOVIET FORCES AND

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MUJAHIDEEN NEAR THE HIGHWAY FROM 7AM TO 5PM ON OCTOBER 5.

14. JUDGING FROM REPORTS PRIOR TO THE CURRENT OFFENSIVE, SHOMALI RESIDENTS CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTIES IN HARVESTING THE GRAPES. MUJAHIDEEN DEMAND A TAX FROM SHOMALI RESIDENTS RETURNING FROM KABUL TO TEND THE VINEYARDS, AND SOVIET SOLDIERS STEAL TRUCKLOADS OF GRAPES AT NIGHT, SOME OF WHICH THEY SELL IN KABUL.

15. PANJSHER. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES, SOVIET TROOPS COMPLETED THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PANJSHER VALLEY IN LATE SEPTEMBER THOUGH A GARRISON FORCE OF

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AFGHAN TROOPS REMAINS AT ANAWA AND ROKHA. BOTH LOCATIONS ARE UNDER SEIGE BY RESISTANCE FORCES AND, ACCORDING TO AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT, MUJAHIDEEN CAPTURED OVER FIFTY AFGHAN SOLDIERS DURING A SNEAK ATTACK ON ANAWA ON OCTOBER 3.

16. WE HAVE HEARD CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT MOVEMENT OF PANJSHERI NON-COMBATANTS. SEVERAL SOURCES STATE THAT THE MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS HAVE EVACUATED THE VALLEY. MOST OF THESE ARE BEING HARBORED BY RELATIVES IN NANGARIAR AND IN KABUL PROVINCES, AND A SMALL NUMBER HAVE FLED TO PAKISTAN. THOSE REMAINING IN THE VALLEY CONTINUE TO LIVE IN CAVES SINCE THEIR VILLAGES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. ACCORDING TO A SEPARATE SOURCE, PANJSHER RESISTANCE LEADER MASUD ASKED RESIDENTS TO RETURN AFTER THE OFFENSIVE AND THE POPULACE IS CONSEQUENTLY FILTERING BACK INTO THE VALLEY.

17. ANDARAB VALLEY. ACCORDING TO AN AFGHAN WHO RECENTLY LEFT THE PANJSHER VIA THE ANDARAB VALLEY (PROTECT) THERE ARE NO REGIME OR SOVIET FORCES CURRENTLY IN THAT AREA. HOWEVER, THERE IS HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE ANDARAB VALLEY BETWEEN RESISTANCE GROUPS LOYAL TO GULBUOIN HEKMATYAR AND TO THE JAHIAI-E-ISLAMI FORCES. WHILE THERE IS ALSO
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TION FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE (SAMA) IN THE VALLEY, IT IS NOT INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT HOSTILITIES. THE SAME SOURCE STATES THAT SOVIET TROOPS ARE MASSING NEAR JABUL-ES-SERAJ, USING THE CEMENT FACTORY AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC STATION AS STAGING AREAS. SOME PANJSHERIS BELIEVE THIS MAY SIGNAL A RE-ENTRY INTO THE PANJSHER VALLEY. OTHERS SPECULATE THAT IT PRESAGES AN OFFENSIVE IN THE ANDARAB VALLEY SINCE RESIDENTS THERE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT SUPPORTING ROLE DURING PANJSHER VI BY SUPPLYING FOOD TO MASUD'S FORCES.

18. NANGARHAR PROVINCE. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES, RESISTANCE FORCES REALIZED A SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS IN THE ASHAR VALLEY, A SIDE VALLEY TO THE KONAR VALLEY IN NANGARHAR PROVINCE. A LARGE COLUMN OF AFGHAN TROOPS WITH HELICOPTER SUPPORT MOVED INTO THE ASHAR VALLEY IN EARLY OCTOBER. THE MUJAHIDEEN REPORTEDLY FELL BACK AND OFFERED LITTLE RESISTANCE UNTIL THE COLUMN WAS WELL WITHIN THE VALLEY. THE MUJAHIDEEN, WHO OUTNUMBERED THE SOLDIERS, THEN SURROUNDED THE COLUMN AND ATTACKED. REPORTEDLY OVER 50 VEHICLES WERE DESTROYED OR CAPTURED OR CAME OVER TO THE RESISTANCE SIDE.

19. TRAVELLERS' TALES. THE ID-U-ADHA HOLIDAYS, WHICH FELL IN LATE SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, ARE A TIME WHEN AFGHAN FAMILIES COME TOGETHER. EVEN UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS MANY AFGHANS CAME TO KABUL OR TRAVELLED TO THE PROVINCES FOR ID, BRINGING INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL CONDITIONS NORMALLY UNAVAILABLE IN KABUL. THE FOLLOWING REPORTS ON FARAH, JOWZJAN, AND HAZAR-E-SHARIF

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ARE BASED ON SUCH REPORTS.

20. FARAH. DRA REGIME CONTROL IN FARAH PROVINCE IS SUBSTANTIALLY WEAKER THAN IT WAS LAST YEAR. DUE TO HEAVY FIGHTING BETWEEN FARAH AND FARAHRUD (ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY) AND BETWEEN FARAHRUD AND KANDAHAR IN LATE SEPTEMBER, THE TWO-DAY TRIP TO KABUL ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT TOOK TEN DAYS. ONE TRAVELLER NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN HEAVY FIGHTING NEAR FARAHRUD AND THAT HE HAD COUNTED OVER THREE DOZEN SOVIET CORPSES AND A DOZEN BOODIES OF AFGHAN SOLDIERS ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY. THE ROADS WERE LITTERED WITH THE BURNT-OUT VEHICLES FROM THAT ENGAGEMENT AND

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PREVIOUS FIGHTS.

21. JOMZJAN. WHILE THE NORTHERN CITY OF SHEBERGHAN, CAPITAL OF JOMZJAN PROVINCE, IS CONTROLLED BY THE REGIME, THE COUNTRYSIDE IS IN THE HANDS OF THE RESISTANCE. ATTACKS ON REGIME CONVOYS ARE SO FREQUENT THAT REGIME AUTHORITIES IN SHEBERGHAN ARE CURRENTLY PROVISIONED BY HELICOPTER FROM HAZAR-E-SHARIF. SHEBERGHAN IS ALSO WITHOUT ITS NORMAL SUPPLY OF WATER AS THE MUJAHIDEEN CONTROL THE DAM AT SAR-E-POL TO THE SOUTH. WATER THAT NORMALLY FLOWS TO SHEBERGHAN HAS BEEN DIVERTED TO IRRIGATE LOCAL FIELDS. THERE IS A "MOLESWAL" (DISTRICT OFFICER) IN SAR-E-POL, BUT HE IS RARELY ABLE TO LEAVE THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, A COMMON PHENOMENON THROUGHOUT THE MOLESWALS OF THE PROVINCE. THE DRA REGIME SCHOOL AT SAR-E-POL HAS BEEN DESTROYED BY THE MUJAHIDEEN WHO NOW RUN THEIR OWN SCHOOL THERE. REPORTEDLY THE PIPELINE BETWEEN SAR-E-POL AND SHEBERGHAN, WHERE THE GAS PURIFICATION PLANT AND REFINERY ARE LOCATED, HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN BY THE REGIME SINCE MAINTENANCE CANNOT BE CARRIED OUT IN RESISTANCE-CONTROLLED TERRITORY.

22. HAZAR-E-SHARIF. WE HAVE HEARD FROM TWO SOURCES THAT IN EARLY OCTOBER THE MUJAHIDEEN ATTACKED A POPA HEAD-
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QUARTERS IN HAZAR-E-SHARIF WITH ROCKETS, NOT ONLY DESTROYING THAT BUILDING, BUT DAMAGING SEVERAL NEARBY STRUCTURES.

23. CIVILIANS TRAVELLING FROM SEBERGHAN TO HAZAR-E-SHARIF HAVE ENCOUNTERED NEITHER REGIME NOR RESISTANCE CHECKPOINTS. IN FACT, IN LATE SEPTEMBER THE FIRST CHECKPOINT ON THE HIGHWAY TO KABUL WAS AT THE SOUTH OF THE SALANG TUNNEL, WHERE TRUCKS AND BUSES BACK UP WHILE WAITING TO BE SEARCHED BY SOVIET SOLDIERS. IN ADDITION TO SEARCHING THE VEHICLES, THE SOLDIERS DEMAND FOOD, CIGARETTES OR HASHISH. IF NONE IS FORTHCOMING, THE VEHICLES ARE REPORTEDLY NOT ALLOWED THROUGH THE TUNNEL. (NOTE: TRUCKERS WHO PLY THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN KABUL AND JALALABAD REPORT THAT SIMILAR DEMANDS BY SOVIET SOLDIERS IN THAT AREA ARE COMMONPLACE.)
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